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C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 003463

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/27/2013

TAGS: MARR MOPS PREL TU

SUBJECT: TURKS FIRM IN THEIR SUPPORT FOR "OPTION TWO" FOR
NATO COMMAND RESTRUCTURING

REF: ATHENS 01723

¶1. (U) Classified by Political-Military Counselor Stuart
Brown. Reasons 1.5 (b) and (d).

¶2. (C) Polmilloff met with Fatih Ceylan, Head of the MFA NATO and Euro-Atlantic Defense and Security Affairs Department, on May 22 on the subject of NATO command restructuring. Ceylan said that Turkey would be ready to approve the restructuring plan at the NATO Ministerial in June if "Option Two" is the plan being considered. "Option Two" allots an air component command to Turkey (Izmir). Ceylan noted that the GOT has always been opposed to a concentration of headquarters in any one country, particularly now that the primary security threats are asymmetrical in nature.

¶3. (C) Ceylan said the GOT understood that there was a "gentlemen's agreement" among Spain, Italy, Greece and Turkey at the US-hosted Senior Officials Group (SOG) to support "Option Two." However, Spain and Greece subsequently emerged with demands for additional NATO facilities. Spain insists on hosting a Combined Air Operations Center (CAOC) in addition to a land headquarters, and Greece wants another entity, preferably NAVSOUTH, in addition to a CAOC. Ceylan stressed that the MFA will not accept any plan that deviates from "Option Two."

¶4. (C) Embassy Ankara understands that the details of "Option Two" are as follows:

- SHAPE in Mons, BE;
- Joint Force Commands in Brunssum, NL and Naples, IT; Third Joint HQ in Lisbon, PO;
 - Land Component Commands in Heidelberg, GE and Madrid, SP;
 - Air Component Commands in Ramstein, GE and Izmir, TU;
- Maritime Component Commands in Northwood, UK and Naples, IT;
- CAOCs in Finderup, DA and Larissa, GR with co-located CAOCs/Deployable CAOCs in Uedem, GE and Poggio Renatico, IT.

PEARSON